

COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL BY "CENTER FOR STUDY ON INTELLIGENCE"

While the idea is generally o. k., I have three reservations:

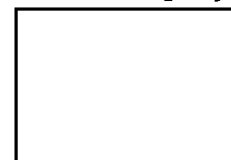
(1) Such a study should avoid getting into "legal authorities for our support and implications." (Outline I. A. 1. b.) It should stick to the practical aspects of our relationship with Congress. The legal issues (separation of powers, Executive privilege, etc.) surrounding the Agency's position vis a vis Congress and the President are too important and complex to be dealt with in a study of this nature.

(2) I think there is a great deal of pest and short-circuiting potential here, especially where "research fellows" will be going up to the Hill to talk to staffers and Members. It proliferates the contact points between the Agency and Congress. OLC could not afford to abrogate its responsibility to monitor these contacts. This could be very burdensome. The alternative would be to let the "fellows" loose on their own. This could be disastrous.

(3) While the topic is a good one and should be studied in some intensive and detailed way, the Center is not the proper place for it to be done. After all, this is not really a study in intelligence, i.e. "How we discovered the Soviets were manufacturing widgets." It deals with the Agency's relationship with Congress. This is something that should be done in the DCI area. It is something that goes to the guts of OLC's job and therefore I think OLC should have responsibility and control over such a research project. One way OLC could keep control and responsibility for such work is to have the individual who is going to do it temporarily attached to OLC and responsible directly to the Legislative Counsel.

Incidentally, we might also want to consider the backfire possibilities in this proposal. If there are going to be "fellows" interviewing staffers and Members, people on the Hill are going to be alerted to the fact that an Agency study on our relationship with Congress is in the works. It is distinctly possible that this study would ultimately end up being requested by Congressmen or their staff. This consideration militates for keeping the project within the DCI area and under OLC control.

So, I would argue that OLC should keep control over such a project.



STAT

To george -

Believe this to be
a great idea — the
outline appears to be
complete — Suggest we
approve.



STATINTL ☐

good idea - it should be done
by someone in the Agency, and
next to somebody in OLC. This group
is ~~for~~ I guess as good as any.
It would be most beneficial if they
could begin quickly and have their
recommendations before Senate Joint Ops
begins hearings & action on oversight
about December

Don